

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A master processing apparatus for use with a pair of removable feed rolls, the removable feed rolls each carrying a supply of stock material to be unwound, at least one of the stock materials having a layer of adhesive provided thereon, said apparatus comprising:

    a frame constructed and arranged to removably mount the feed rolls, said frame having an opening at a feed side thereof;

    a master processing assembly;

    said frame being constructed and arranged such that, when the feed rolls are removably mounted thereto, a master can be inserted through the opening of the feed side of said frame and into said master processing assembly together with the stock materials unwound from their respective feed rolls and disposed on opposing sides of the master;

    said master processing assembly being constructed and arranged to perform a master processing operation wherein said processing assembly causes adhesive bonding between the master and stock materials being fed in a feed side thereof and subsequently discharges the processed master and stock materials outwardly from a discharge side thereof; and

    a feed tray having a substrate supporting surface, said feed tray being movably mounted to said frame on the feed side of said master processing assembly for selective movement between (a) an operative position wherein said tray extends outwardly away from said master processing assembly with said substrate supporting surface thereof positioned to support the master in substantially flat relation during feeding of the master into said master processing assembly and (b) an inoperative position wherein said tray is positioned in covering relation to the opening of said frame to inhibit ingress of undesired objects into said master processing assembly via said opening;

    the movable mounting of said feed tray enabling said tray (a) to move from said inoperative position thereof to said operative position thereof by raising said tray generally upwardly from said inoperative position and pivoting said tray generally downwardly away from said frame to said operative position and (b) to

move from said operative position thereof to said inoperative position thereof by pivoting said tray generally upwardly from said operative position and lowering said tray generally downwardly to said inoperative position.

2. A master processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an actuator constructed and arranged to affect operation of said master processing assembly.

3. A master processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said frame has a pair of sidewalls with guide tracks provided on interior surfaces thereof and wherein said feed tray has a pair of pins extending from opposite sides thereof, said pins being slidably received in said guide tracks to movably mount said feed tray to said frame such that (a) said tray is moved from said inoperative position thereof to said operative position thereof by moving said tray generally upwardly from said inoperative position until said pins are proximate upper ends of said tracks and then pivoting said tray about said pins downwardly away from said frame to said operative position and (b) to said tray is moved from said operative position thereof to said inoperative position thereof by pivoting said tray upwardly from said operative position about said pins and then moving said tray downwardly to said inoperative position wherein said pins are proximate lower ends of said tracks.